

Congressman Urges Across the Board Cuts

Washington, DC-U.S. Congressman Mike Pence appeared on FOXNEWS Channel this morning to discuss the federal budget and the need for spending discipline:

"Well, we're going to work it out and we're going to keep our word to the American people. In the Pledge to America, Republicans said that we would save taxpayers at least \$100 billion in the first year. And what's going on right now on Capitol Hill are negotiations among Republicans to keep our word and I believe that we will. House appropriators did some yeoman's work this week. They came up with discretionary and security savings of a little bit over \$70 billion, the House conservatives believe we can do better, we believe we can hit that \$100 billion mark, and I think we should. You never get a second chance at a first impression, Bill, and I think it's very important the Republican majority start out with the American people by keeping our word to reduce spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels and save at least \$100 billion in this first round."

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"You know, I don't know if they're heated, but they're frank. You've got a lot of men and women who have just arrived in Washington, you've got people like yours truly that have been out here fighting the budget battle for years and we're all united. I want to make that clear. House Republicans, from the leadership to the newest member, are all united in the principle that we have to make the hard choices to put our fiscal house in order and I believe we will there's that old saying if you like sausage, don't go where they make it. I know the press likes to report on every different aspect and different iteration of this but I think what's going on is very healthy. It's a debate among Republicans not about whether we ought to be cutting spending but by how much and...House conservatives believe we have to hit the mark of at least \$100 billion. "

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"I had some conversations on the House floor yesterday with some colleagues and while I appreciate the work the House Appropriations Committee has done on a piecemeal basis

focusing on specific programs, you know, I think the better approach is simply an across the board cut. I think the way we reduce spending to pre-2008 -- or back to 2008 levels- pre-stimulus, pre-bailout is we ought to just get out a ruler and draw a line across it and have every different program take a haircut. The problem is when you start to pick specific programs, all the special interests associated with each of those programs begin to mobilize. The American people are ready for us to make hard choices, they're ready for us to put their money where our mouth is, and I am going to continue to champion - maybe we'll take what the Appropriations Committee has done but the way we get to \$100 billion is let's take an across the board cut of another 10 percent of what remains. "

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